

# Jan Knuckey

Collected from Capt. Thos Collett of Perrancoombe in 1929.  
Cornish Dialect and Folk Songs p10

Aw Jon - nee will ee cum a long now? or  
 Jon - nee will ee waet fer a wile? Than  
 cum a long Jon weth yer big boots awn, Er  
 Jon - nee will ee waet fer a wile?

Aw Jonnee will ee cum a long  
 (cum a long) now?  
 or Jonnee will ee waet fer a wile?  
 (fer a wile?)  
 Than cum a long Jon  
 weth yer big boots awn,  
 Er Jonnee will ee waet fer a wile?

Jan Knuckey waz a miner bold  
 as ever woz t' Baal,  
 An cruel good cud raassel too  
 An thraw a tidy faall.

Now up along t' Churchtown livd  
 a fine an thumpen daam.  
 She woz pure stout – so was er purs  
 Aant Graasee wer er naam.

Aant Graasee ad fer many ears  
 a liddel shoap like keepd,  
 Wer goods fer oald an chelern too  
 wer oll together eepd.

Wuell Jan ee fetchd es coos waun day  
 ta tell es mind to Graas,  
 But wen ee got enside tha dooer  
 ee dedn av tha faas.

At laas sez ee "I do ee luv  
 wen shall us be axed owt?  
 lev me an you keep comnee"  
 tha anser woz a clowt!

"Aw lev us av noa fuss" sez Jan  
 "an doant ee taak t amess.  
 Ef that I ax afoorer we part  
 a liddel crum ov kess."

But Graasee's dander now woz up.  
 She screechd an jawd be turns,  
 an then she took un be tha scruff  
 an fochd un thoo tha durns!

Dunstan tell us that the verses are based on a Cornish tale in Wm. Sandy's *Specimens of Cornish Provincial Dialect*, published under the pen-name of *Uncle Jan Treenoodle* in 1846. The chorus and tune were collected from Captain Thomas Collett of Perrancoombe in 1929. Now sung in fine Dialect by Moe Keast.

The first verse has the word baal from Cornish bal - 'a mine'. The 'a' is long and does not exist in English therefore Sandys invented the symbol <â> for the sound /a:/ in order to make the English derived word *fall* rhyme with the Cornish derived word *bal* - such are the problems of representing Dialect.